

Animal Adaptations I

Grades: 3 and 4

Length: 50 minutes

South Dakota Content Standards

- ◆ 3rd Grade Life Science: Students will explain how behavioral and physical adaptations allow animals to respond to life needs.
- ◆ 3rd Grade Life Science: Students will understand that science involves asking and answering questions and comparing results to what is already known.
- ◆ 4th Grade Life Science: Students will describe behavioral and structural adaptations plants and animals make to survive in a given environment.

Primary Theme

Studying and restoring the mixed grass prairie ecosystem and humans' relationship to it will help us understand the changing grassland ecology of the Midwest, and ensure the protection of this fragile and remarkably diverse ecosystem.

Materials

- ◆ Laptop
- ◆ Projector
- ◆ Craft box
- ◆ Recycled or scrap paper

Kick-off

Introduce Badlands National Park. Tell some prairie animal jokes or funny stories. Make sure the jokes are about animals found in Badlands National Park. This is just to warm up the audience. Quickly move on to the slide show and activity.

Some example jokes are:

What holiday do coyotes celebrate in the fall? Howl-ween
What do you call a deer with no eyes? I have no-eye-deer

Slide Show

Present the standard "Animal Adaptations I" slide show. You can change the order of the slides and add/delete slides as long as you follow the general outline and address the themes and standards above.

Activity

Students create an animal that is adapted to live in the Badlands environment. Students can work in pairs or alone. Students can draw and color their animal. Students should be able to describe the adaptations of their animal to the environment. For example, their animal must have adaptations to eat something that exists on the prairie.

Conclusion

Call on a few volunteers to describe their animal. Review the main idea.